

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-13 /046 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4217

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 03974

FOR INR/RNA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDIP, PLO, SP
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PALESTINIAN
REPRESENTATION ABROAD

REF: STATE 91578

1. THE PLO OFFICE IN MADRID WAS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED ON MARCH 9, 1977 (77 MADRID 1807). ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S MIDDLE EAST CHIEF (ALBI), WHO SUPPLIED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, THERE ARE NOW SIX PEOPLE IN THAT OFFICE, ALL OF THEM PALESTINIAN: OF THESE, TWO HAVE "SPECIAL" ID CARDS (SEE BELOW), AND THE OTHER FOUR HAVE ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS. THERE ARE NO OTHER PALESTINIAN OFFICES OR REPRESENTATIVES IN MADRID.

2. THE "OFFICIAL" STATUS OF THE OFFICE IS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN DIPLOMATIC AND PRIVATE. THE TWO "SPECIAL" ID CARDS, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE THE SAME COLOR AS THE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC ID CARDS HERE BUT ARE STAMPED BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY INSTEAD OF THE MFA, AND DO NOT REFER TO DIPLOMATIC STATUS IN ANY WAY. THE OFFICE IS PERMITTED
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ONE POUCH (IN AND OUT) OF NO MORE THAN 10 KILOS EVERY FIFTEEN DAYS, AND IS ALSO ALLOWED TO HAVE A TELEX. IT IS PERMITTED TO HAVE A PLAQUE (IDENTIFYING IT AS AN "OFFICE"), BUT MAY FLY NO FLAG. IT HAS BEEN GRANTED DUTY PRIVILEGES ONLY FOR ITS INSTALLATIONS (INCLUDING OFFICE EQUIPMENT), BUT NOT FOR ITS PERSONNEL. IT IS PERMITTED THE DUTY-FREE IMPORT OF ONE OFFICIAL VEHICLE,

BUT IT HAS NOT YET TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THIS, SO THE GOS
HAS NOT HAD TO DECIDE WHAT KIND OF LICENSE PLATE TO
ISSUE.

3. THESE RULES WERE ESSENTIALLY MADE UP BY THE MFA
(ALBI CONTINUED) TO MEET THE UNUSUAL SITUATION, AND THEY
HAD NO PRECEDENT TO GO ON. THE PALESTINIAN REPS MADE
NO COMPLAINT ABOUT ANY OF THE SPANISH DECISIONS. THOSE
REPRESENTATIVES HAVE FREE ACCESS TO THE MINISTRY, ALBI
CONCLUDED, AND HAVE BEEN HELPFUL WHEN SUCH PROBLEMS AS
THE PRESENCE IN SPAIN OF UNDOCUMENTED PALESTINIANS HAVE
ARISEN. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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